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Executive Registry

### NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

June 8, 1976

Mr. George Bush, Director Central Intelligence Agency McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mr. Bush:

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia is having its 7th Annual Meeting on July 22 - 25th at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. As Program Chairman for this event, it is my privilege to obtain a guest speaker for the banquet which is scheduled for Saturday evening, July 24th. It is my hope that you will consent to speak to the POW/MIA families and concerned friends relative to your personal experiences and thoughts on dealing with the communist governments in Asia, Southeast Asia in particular.

As you are well aware, the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia is attempting to investigate this problem and recommend solutions which will then be implimented at the discretion of the Administration. It is our fear that the Select Committee will cease its operation on the projected date of expiration, September 11, 1976, leaving little if any incentive for the Administration to act upon the recommendations provided.

In addition, the political climate is such that President Ford is reluctant to appear "soft" on dealing with the subject governments due to Mr. Reagan's often illfounded remarks pertaining to dealing with the Vietnamese. The National League has long held the belief that negotiations are the only means by which we will obtain the accounting provided for in the Paris Peace Accords. We were encouraged to hear Dr. Kissinger and President Ford address the subject of negotiations, without preconditions, which have been agreed to by the Vietnamese. However, it now appears that nothing will be done until after the elections in November. Once again, the POW/MIA families are caught in the middle of a situation over which we have no control.

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The aforegoing I have mentioned by way of background to let you know approximately where we stand in our efforts. I am certain the families would be most interested in hearing any suggestions you might have as to actions which might be taken to resolve the accounting problem. The schedule for Saturday night, July 24th, is cocktails from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program. Should you prefer to speak at an alternative time, Saturday afternoon between 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. is tentatively open.

I shall be anxiously awaiting a response to this request to facilitate finalizing the program plans.

Sincerely,

Chu Maller Saffeth,

Ann Mills Griffiths Program Chairman 7th Annual Meeting

cc: Col. Earl P. Hopper, Sr.

AUS-Ret.

Executive Director

National League of Families

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## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**Routing Slip

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A. Griffiths 6575 Christine Circle Buena Park, CA 90620

OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1606 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006







Mr. George Bush, Director Central Intelligence Agency McLean, Virginia 22101